

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00329 270924Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 ACDA-12 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /105 W
-----051061 280333Z /41

R 270757Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6390
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0329

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, ET, SU
SUBJECT: ERITREAN ADVANCES REPORTED

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ERITREAN MILITARY ADVANCES HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN KHARTOUM
PRESS JANUARY 26 AND 27. ACCORDING SUNA EPLF HAS CAPTURED
DONGOLO MILITARY CAMP SITUATED ABOUT FIFTY MILES FROM MASSAWA
ON ROAD TO ASMARA. THIS REPORT CLAIMS SOME 3500 ETHIOPIAN
TROOPS HAVE BEEN KILLED OR CAPTURED IN ADDITION TO EPMG
SECURITY FORCES IN GHINDA TOWN WHICH ALSO FELL TO EPLF TUESDAY
(JANUARY 24). APPARENTLY THIS VICTORY HAS RESULTED IN EPLF NOW
CONTROLLING 70 KM OF MASSAWA-ASMARA ROAD.

2. IN SECOND DISPATCH, SUNA REPORTS INTENSIFICATION OF EPLF
ATTACKS ON NEFASIT 30 MILES EAST OF ASMARA. EPLF FORCES
MOVING IN PINCEC FROM SOUTH AND EAST. AMBATKALA WAS
CAPTURED BY EPLF WEDNESDAY. YNNA CLAIMS SOME 7000 ETHIOPIAN
TROOPS WERE OVERCOME BY ERITREAN FORCES. BATTLES FOR
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NEFASIT AND AMBATKALA WERE DESCRIBED AS EXTENSION OF FIGHTING
IN MASSAWA AND LAST STEP IN COMPLETING SEIGE OF ASMARA WHICH,
SUNA SAYS, IS ISOLATED ISLAND ENCIRCLED BY EPLF FORCES.
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3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SUNA REPORTS ON FIGHTING IN ERITREA HAVE USUALLY BEEN REASONABLY ACCURATE, THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME CONFUSION IN REPORTS DISCUSSED ABOVE WHEN CHECKED AGAINST OTHER INFO AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY. BASED ON OUR OWN INFO WE THINK FIGHTING MORE LIKELY TO BE RELATED TO MASSAWA CAMPAIGN THAN TO ASMARA, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS EPLF LINKS ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS. WE ALSO THINK REPORTS, WHICH PROBABLY ARE BASED ON EPLF-PROVIDED INFO, ARE PART OF EPLF PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN VIS-A-VIS ELF AS MUCH AS ANY SIMILAR EFFORT VIS-A-VIS EPMG.
BERGUS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KHARTO00329
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780042-0074
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780115/aaaaamic.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 85b270df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3702755
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ERITREAN ADVANCES REPORTED BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: MOPS, ET, SU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/85b270df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014